



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

September 15, 2008

Reply To: EPTA – 088

05-043-AFS

Mr. Jeff Walter, Forest Supervisor  
Ochoco National Forest  
3160 NE Third Street  
Prineville, Oregon 97754

Dear Mr. Walter:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final **East Maury Fuels and Vegetation Management Project Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS) [CEQ #20080137] in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

Thank you for responding to our comments on the Draft EIS. Of the concerns we raised, we have one remaining with respect to road closures. The final EIS indicates (on page G-5) that closing roads will include cross drain installation and that some culverts may be left in place. We believe that with time, these culverts could potentially become barriers to fish passage or become dysfunctional in other ways that may contribute to erosion and sedimentation problems. We recommend that monitoring and maintenance protocols be put in place to ensure that closed roads do not cause impacts to water quality, aquatic habitat and biota in the future, and that subsequent NEPA documents include a description of these protocols.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of this project. If you would like to discuss these comments further, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-1601 or Elaine Somers at (206) 553-2966.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine Reichgott, Manager  
NEPA Review Unit